



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
or (617) 626-1180

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 19, 2004

CONTACT:
Felix Browne 617-626-1119

**ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION PUSHES FOR \$7 MILLION
UPGRADE TO WOLLASTON BEACH AND QUINCY SHORE DRIVE**

WOLLASTON BEACH – Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Herzfelder and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Kathy Abbott kicked off the summer recreation season at Wollaston Beach today and released details of a \$7 million improvement plan for Wollaston Beach and Quincy Shore Drive.

Earlier this month Governor Mitt Romney proposed spending a part of the state's \$500 million fiscal 2004 budget surplus to increase the quality of life in communities throughout Massachusetts.

"The Romney Administration is committed to maintaining and improving the tremendous recreational infrastructure that makes Massachusetts such a great place to live and raise a family," said Herzfelder. "We have a unique opportunity to make life better for the residents of this community, for commuters who depend on our bridges and parkways, and for the thousands of visitors who come here to enjoy this beautiful beach; we should seize this opportunity."

Romney proposed sending \$100 million to cities and towns in the form of additional local aid and set aside \$254 million for one-time capital improvements across the state, including upgrades to roads and bridges and renovations to state recreation facilities such as parks, swimming pools and beaches. Romney's budget contained \$7 million for improvements to Wollaston Beach and Quincy Shore Drive.

Herzfelder said Governor Romney's plan would allow DCR to proceed with a series of improvements that would make the beach a more pleasant and comfortable place while improving traffic flow along the parkway. Proposed improvements include:

- Repairing the seawall;
- Re-nourishing the beach;
- Upgrading storm drainage;

-more-

- Installing new traffic signalization;
- Building a new tot lot;
- Improving pedestrian crossings;
- Installing traffic calming features;
- Building new gateways to mark beach entrances at East Squantum Street and Rice Road;
- Widening beachside walkways;
- Installing outdoor showers;
- Replacing benches;
- Installing new water fountains;
- Constructing new shade shelters;
- Making landscape improvements;
- Installing new bike racks.

Commissioner Abbott pointed out that DCR has the required permits in place and said her agency could bid the project if funding were to be approved by the Legislature.

“Visitors to Wollaston and residents of this community will see a world of difference if we’re able to move forward with these improvements,” said Abbott. “I’d like to take our plans off the drawing board and set them in motion.”

Abbott also said the Governor’s supplemental budget contained \$2 million to hire seasonal staff at parks. She said this could mean up to 400 new summer jobs for kids around the state.

Today marks the official opening of all DCR urban beaches. From now until Labor Day, sections of beaches listed below will be staffed with lifeguards seven days a week between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. DCR urban beaches are opening on schedule today for the first time in three years. The state budget crisis delayed these openings until July 1 over the past two years.

Malibu Beach, Dorchester
Savin Hill Beach, Dorchester
Tenean Beach, Dorchester
Constitution Beach, East Boston
Nantasket Beach, Hull
King’s Beach, Lynn
Lynn Beach, Lynn
Nahant Beach, Nahant
Wollaston Beach, Quincy

Revere Beach, Revere
Short Beach, Revere
Carson Beach, South Boston
Castle Island, South Boston
City Point, South Boston
M Street Beach, South Boston
Pleasure Bay, South Boston
Winthrop Beach, Winthrop

####